

Tape 43

Side A, 3 1/4 - 3 5/16

Jay has a copy.

OK

28 July 80

25X1

NOTE FOR:

FROM: DCI

For the Brzezinski meeting, I'd better take the CH papers again.

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 17 (SECT. I)

CHICAGO TRIBUNE
23 July 1980

Watergate still stealing thunder from tempest-torn author Hunt

By Rogers Worthington

THE DAY IS NOT going well for E. Howard Hunt. He has talked with a newspaper reporter, a television interviewer, and a radio-show host, and no one has asked him anything about the shiny new book under his arm. Instead, they came at him with all the old — and a few new — questions about Watergate, the Kennedy assassination, his wife's death in a plane crash near Midway Airport in 1972, and most of all, G. Gordon Liddy, in whose footsteps E. Howard Hunt is following by two months on the hot-author circuit.

And it is all a little more than Hunt cares to bear.

"After Chicago, that's it; that's the end of the tour. Everybody here wants to talk about Watergate, Watergate, Watergate. In San Francisco there was nothing about Watergate. I was in New York a full day and night, and the subject never really came up, with one exception: I was asked a few questions about Gordon Liddy's life and hard times. They seem to have jumped to consume Mr. Liddy's memoirs."

Hunt is a lightly tanned, fit 61, save for a slight paunch. The eyes still have a hint of humor, giving him the fun-and-games quality that belies the gravity of his sins. And he is looking decidedly old-boy-Washingtonian in his brown blazer with the Brown University crest bearing the motto *In Deo Speramus* (In God We Trust). A gold ring on the left hand bears his family crest and motto, *Semper Fidelis* (Always Faithful).

"I didn't wear this in prison," he says, a free man now for 2½ years. "They would have cut off my finger to get it."

BECAUSE HUNT was here to promote his new novel, "The Hargrave Deception" (Stein and Day, \$10.95), the questions about Liddy and his autobiography, "Will," were especially irritating. "Will" has been widely reviewed, 200,000 copies are in print, and it is moving up from seventh place on the New York Times best-seller list.

Then there's the money. Liddy, a relatively neophyte writer (he also has published a novel), undoubtedly commanded a high price for breaking his silence. It is near-certain that it was more than was paid for anything by veteran wordsmith Hunt, who has ground out 56 books in 38 years, including his own post-Watergate autobiography, "Undercover," published in 1974 when books about Watergate had not yet begun to spill off the presses.

But while these thoughts may or may not give E. Howard Hunt some discomfort, what really angers him is that G. Gordon Liddy, once a fast friend, now is telling all in a book he is profiting from, while in 1972 his lips were sealed when he could have blown the whistle and saved Hunt and the Watergate burglars grief, money, and jail time.

"He is hypocritical," Hunt says. "He's doing what he said he would never do: tell all. We went down the tubes because of him. He was the one with the contacts. In one second in 1972 he could have clarified the whole thing, and he didn't do it."

"He waited until 1980, when the statute of limitations has run out and it's commercially profitable for him to come forward. And I consider that about as despicable as what Richard Nixon did."

THIS IS IN contrast to the more admiring words Hunt had for Liddy in "Undercover." At that time he found Liddy to be "... a gifted raconteur and good companion ... a 19th-Century man incapable of adapting to the liberalism and permissiveness of the late 20th Century ... (and who) suffers his personal Calvary without complaint and without hope."

Hunt wrote those words not long after sharing a cell block in the Washington, D.C., jail with Liddy.

"I didn't know that Liddy was an idiot," Hunt says. "Even though I was suffering from his withholding, I still felt he was a man of principle. So you had to give some weight to his acting out of principle. Now he is not acting out of principle."

While Hunt was looking through the bars of the D.C. jail and perhaps contemplating his autobiography, Liddy was in a nearby cell definitely contemplating Hunt's assassination. Liddy tells us in his book that he thought it possible his superiors might order him to eliminate Hunt if he decided to testify against the White House. Liddy decided to be prepared should the order come, so he worked out a plan to poison the food in the ulcer-troubled Hunt's special prison diet.

OF COURSE, no such order was given. Hunt went on to cooperate with the Watergate grand jury prosecutors, and the worst Liddy ever did was resolve never to talk to Hunt again (a sentiment Hunt now reciprocates).

"I guess I regard the whole thing with a sort of fear and loathing," Hunt, sour-faced, says of his association with Liddy.

"My five other colleagues and I were unwitting participants in this lifelong campaign of his that involved masochism, monomania, and machismo; and he just dragged us into this weird scenario he was creating."

"But I really don't want to flack Liddy's book," he adds.

Hunt regards this all as a useless stirring of old ashes, and it has him agitated and shifting in his seat. Yet he has no problems, or at least the promotion people at Stein and Day have no problems, with using Liddy to flack "The Hargrave Deception."

"THIS MAN WAS ON GORDON LIDDY'S HIT LIST," reads an ad in a recent issue of the Washington Post's book review section. Below is a picture of a slightly hunted-looking E. Howard Hunt and the words:

"Now E. Howard Hunt reveals how and why American agents — even after they retire — are sometimes killed by other American agents."

NOW THIS is heavy business. Are CIA agents offering ex-CIA agents? (And if so, why is Philip Agee still alive?) Is this all a product of Hunt's very fecund imagination, or is it based on a hidden reality he encountered during his CIA years?

Hunt shifts forward in his seat when asked to elaborate. This is the oooh-aaahh peg of the novel, and there is a delicate line of insinuation that can be approached, but it is not a task he warms to. He sidles into it a little uncomfortably and talks about "the likelihood anyone in the government is going

to be sought out and slain by somebody else in the government." His tersely written novel is littered with the corpses of agents of one stripe or another, and it turns out that a high-level, rogue elephant element in the CIA is behind the killings. But are there examples in life? Hunt shifts again.

"At the present time there are at least two former CIA people under indictment for conspiracy to murder," he says. "And there have been two unexplained deaths that I know of, of highly placed CIA people."

ONE IS THAT of John Paisley, former deputy director of strategic research for the CIA. Paisley was pulled out of Chesapeake Bay in 1978 with a 9-mm. bullet wound behind his ear. While the Maryland State Police and the FBI ruled Paisley's death a probable suicide, the Senate Intelligence

CONTINUED

Tape 43

Side A, 2 1/4 - 2 1/2

28 July 80

NOTE FOR: Bob Gates

FROM: DCI

Please contact Dan Silver Monday morning and point out how we are coming on trying to work out something with State on the wording of the nondisclosure agreement. The rumor that Muskie is going to Cutler on it is disturbing. I'd like to see if there is anything I can possibly do before I leave town. If not, I'd like to get it moving so that Frank can try to work on it while I am gone. If possible, I should try to talk to Frank about it at lunch on Monday if he is available to have lunch with me.

*Silver
MTJ with legal adviser
Thursday
Acceptable compromise*